

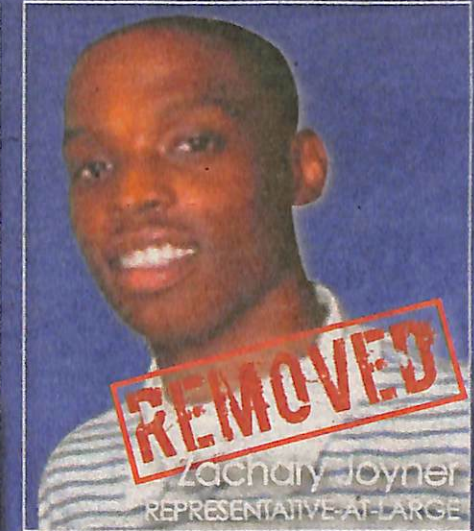
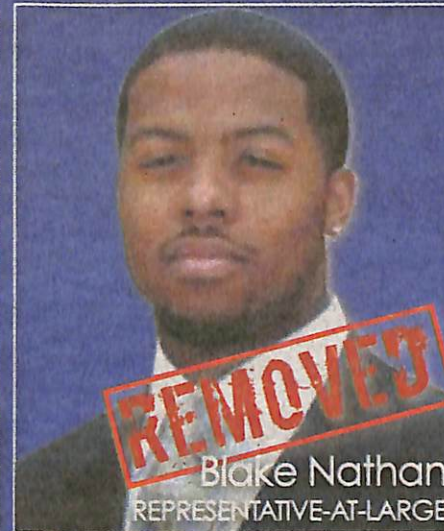
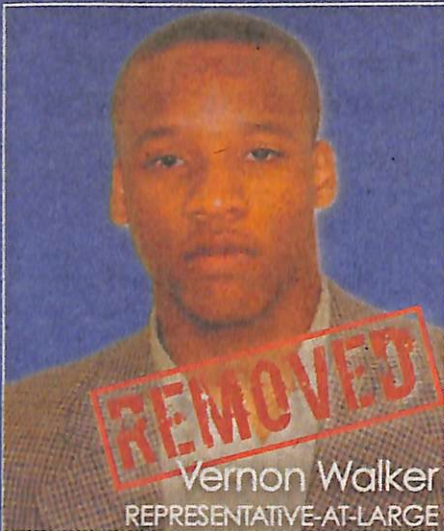
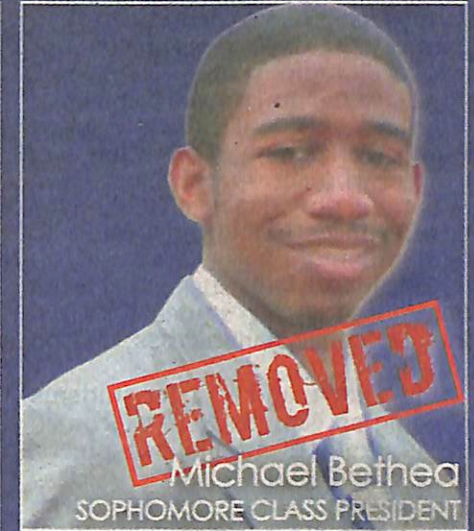
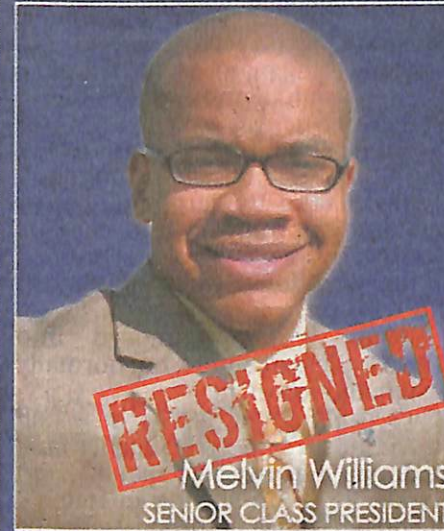
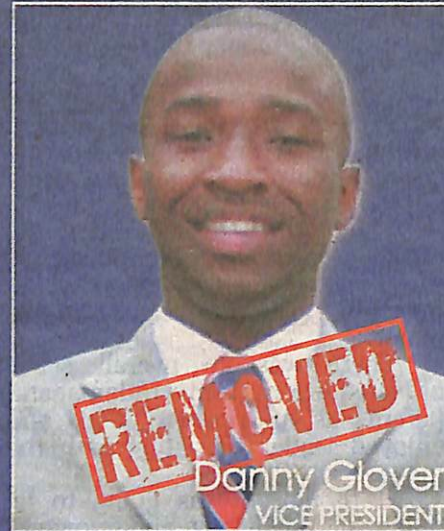
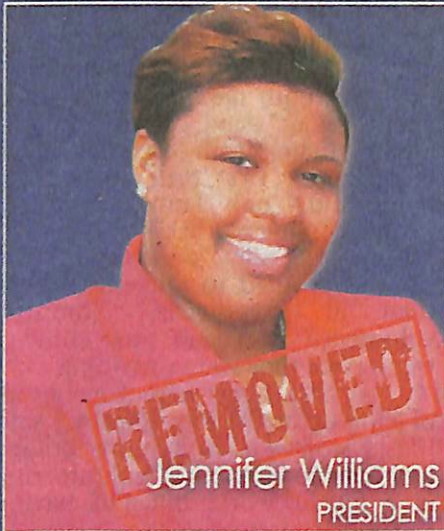
THE METER

Serving the Tennessee State University community since 1950

NASHVILLE, TENN.

www.tsumeter.com

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 2



OUSTED

SGA loses eight members,
including President and
Vice President

SEE PAGE 3

Students applaud new move-in process

By Christopher Patterson
STAFF REPORTER

A grill with limitless hamburgers and hot dogs was fired up, luggage was transported and the buzzing of golf cart engines could be heard as they drove eager new students to their respective residence halls.

Local radio station 101.1 THE BEAT came to provide musical entertainment alongside many vendors, including Sam's Club and Costco, who set up booths in front of parking provided near Hankal Hall to offer incentives and discounts to new students.

Residence Life officials say 1,053 new and transfer students moved into residence halls across TSU on Aug. 22.

Freshman and transfer students residing on campus were welcomed by hundreds of student volunteers, faculty, staff and alumni.

"There are no lines anywhere, we are getting a lot of great compliments and positive feedback from the parents," said William Hytche, director of Residence Life. "Everyone is being very friendly and working together."

Hytche said Residence Life, with the help of Vice President for student Affairs Michael A. Freeman rented 14 move-in carts for carrying luggage and six carts for transporting new freshman and families to their appropriate residence halls.

"For me, it (was) a smooth transition," said Terrence Thompson, an engineering major from Memphis. "We were one of the first people to get here so it was quick, I did not have to wait and the carts were very helpful too."

Because of the large number of new students moving into campus housing, residents were not confined to the traditional walls of Watson and Wilson.

Many freshmen moved into other residence centers, not normally designated for them.

"I think (Hale) is the best hall on campus," said Pedro Figueroa, a freshman engineering major from Clarksville, Tenn. staying in Hale. "I like not sharing a bathroom with like 20 other people."

One father videotaped his wife crying tears of joy as she helped her daughter off one of the carts driven by Roosevelt Faulkner of the

Counseling Center.

The Conners from St. Louis went as far as renting an RV to bring their entire family to witness their daughter Thea move into the newly renovated Wilson Hall.

The RV was large enough to hold everyone and every thing that was needed to make the trip.

"I'm really proud to see her in college," said Thea's mother as she wiped tears from her eyes. "I'm having mixed emotions right now because I am full of joy and tears, but it is overall a wonderful thing."

Thea Conner said she was equally excited about the move.

"I'm just anxious and ready to move in," said Conner, a biology major.

There was an overall sense of satisfaction from students and parents as they carried items and enjoyed leaders assisting with the move.

"I thought I was going to be doing all the lifting and moving," said Donald Dean of Fort Smith, Ark. "I'm enjoying just sitting back watching everyone pitch in and help."

"I'm excited for her attending

a great university (and) getting a good education. TSU is better than most colleges or universities. Some colleges have you going to this place and that place by yourself. I'm glad to see that everyone is involved," Dean continued.

Whether it is there first time away from home or not, all students have several adjustments to make.

"I'm both nervous and excited about today," said Tiffany King, a biology major from Memphis. "This is really my first time away from home and I only know about five people coming to TSU."

As the day progressed, the process seemed to move smoother than in past years, admitted volunteers, who said they enjoyed the service they were providing.

"At first things were slow but its picking up as the day goes by," said D'aria Morris, a sophomore biology major from Houston. "Volunteering is a lot of work, but I'm having fun."

View a photo gallery of
move-in day photos at
www.tsumeter.com.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS


Monday, Aug. 31

88° 55°
HI LO 

Tuesday, Sept. 1


87° 58°
HI LO 

Wednesday, Sept. 2

88° 59°
HI LO 

Special Election Info
6 p.m. FPCC Rm. 210
Omega "Cookout"
6-9 p.m. Welton Plaza

Thursday, Sept. 3

88° 63°
HI LO 

Brothers for Love
Achievement Culture &
Knowledge Inc.
Freshman Cookout
6 p.m. Watson Hall Lawn

"The Color of Culture"
Fashion Show
8 p.m. Kean Hall

SUBG "Party"
10 p.m. Gentry Center


Friday, Sept. 4

84° 63°
HI LO 

Deadline: Special Election
Applications
5pm FPCC Rm. 209

John A. Merritt
Classic Pep Rally
Noon Amphitheater

Saturday, Sept. 5

83° 65°
HI LO 

Football Game vs.
Alabama A&M University
6 p.m. at LP Field

Sunday, Sept. 6

88° 59°
HI LO 

National Association of Colored
Women's Clubs, Frankie J. Pierce
Chapter Ice Cream Social
3 p.m. Wilson Hall Lawn

Nomination Convention
2-4 p.m. FPCC Rm. 210

Want your event featured
in the Event Calendar?
Send information to
meterlayout@gmail.com

SGA loses eight student-elects

By Ashleigh Taylor
NEWS EDITOR

Due to a lack of lasting leadership, ten positions have been abandoned from SGA for the upcoming school year.

Three representatives at large, senior class president, sophomore class president, sophomore class representative, two graduate class representatives and two executive members of SGA have been involuntarily or voluntarily removed from their respective positions.

"This is the first time both positions of President and Vice-President have not met post certification," said Robert Myles, director of Student Activities. "However, this situation is nothing new to the university."

THE METER previously reported that President and Vice-President elects Jennifer Williams and Danny Glover did not make the necessary academic requirements to remain in office.

Since publication, four additional SGA-elects also did not meet post-certification requirements.

According to the TSU *Student Handbook* in which the SGA Constitution is printed, "all student-elects must meet a mandated post certification requirement, which includes attaining a total of 90 credit hours during the campaign semester and receiving a minimum grade point average of 2.5 overall."

Article I, section 12 states the same for House of Delegate(s) members.

In 2005, THE METER reported that SGA officials sought to change GPA requirements for Miss TSU and President to a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, but

the motion never passed.

Two former student elects admit to resigning from their posts to focus on other endeavors.

"After SEC week, I was offered various positions at WTST," said former senior class president Melvin Williams, a senior psychology major from Memphis. "I realized I was not as passionate about being senior class president as I am about my career."

After serving as the University Honors Council president in 2008-2009, Williams sought the snior class
See "Honors" on page 7

Wilson Hall receives 'much needed' renovation

By Ashleigh Taylor
NEWS EDITOR

Creaky doors and leaky faucets are no longer commonplace in Mary Wilson Hall. The 2013 class of freshman women will begin the school year in style.

Renovations and electrical upgrades made during the summer have been completed and made ready for collegiate living.

TSU Residence Life officials have been busy overseeing the project and bringing "comfortable living" to the oldest female dormitory on campus.

"We began May 9 and have not stopped since," said Mr. Carpenter, assistant director of Residence Life, who said the internal makeover consisted of brand new furniture, closets, sinks, windows, new floor tiling and electrical maintenance.

Carpenter also said that such a renovation had not occurred since Wilson's reconstruction in 1964. Now, four decades later, the historic campus landmark has received an much-needed upgrade, that in some students' minds, was right on time.

"It's about time," said Latisha Hurt, a junior dental hygiene major from Detroit. "It was long overdue."

Southland Tiling and University Loft were responsible for the abundance of repairs, Carpenter said.

Incoming freshman now have the



PHOTO BY FAITH FOX/THE METER

A multi-million dollar renovation to Wilson Hall, the freshman residence center, over the summer. Officials say the renovation was the first since 1964.

comfort of walnut bed frames, two-door closets and an additional desk to enhance personal space.

A display room (pictured above) showcased a tentative layout, completely furnished with donated décor and bedding from Bed Bath and Beyond.

Resident Assistant Devarus Irvin insists the 550 residents

will appreciate more storage compartments and space inside the students' double occupancy rooms.

Central air/heating and energy-efficient lighting has also been installed in all of the rooms, in conjunction with a going green partnership the university entered.

The traditional community bathrooms have also been improved.

According to Irvin, shower heads now run more efficiently to conserve hot water during peak shower hours.

"These freshman are walking into luxury," said sophomore biology major, Ashley Brown from Chicago. "I hope they take care of it."

Several current TSU female students have showcased mixed emotions about the recent Wilson Hall reformations.

Upperclassmen women have inquired why the renovations took so long to surface; especially since each class distinctly remembers complaining about the much needed upkeep and renovations.

"Although the intent was good it was not necessary," said Jasmine Hudson, a sophomore business information systems major from Cincinnati and resident assistant in Wilson. "The girls now have less closet space and that money could have been used to repair the elevator."

"All the furniture is very nice and there is enough space everywhere," said Brianca Langham, a freshman psychology major from Nashville. "I'm glad (Wilson) was renovated before I got here."

Excitement shared by freshman women was not mutual for the freshman men.

According to Residence Life administrators, there are tentative plans to refurbish Watson Hall along with other on-campus facilities within ten years. •

What We Think Learn from leaders' mistakes

The former leaders of SGA are now living by example. They are proof that even the most relentless, ambitious or most recognized student can fall short.

To begin the year without a SGA president, vice president and four of 12 SGA Representatives at large at large due to inadequate scores is unacceptable and unfair to the TSU community.

The race for SGA president was the most competitive during campaigning, with the exception of Mr. and Mrs. TSU, and now that race seems to have been run in vain.

Jennifer Williams and Justin Crawford passionately went head to head for the coveted title, but neither could maintain the grades to be leaders for the student body.

It would seem as though Crawford would automatically receive the position, however even his network failed at the end of finals.

The campus should definitely be disappointed about the grading issues plaguing the SGA, however, we must

remember that these leaders are human as well, meaning they are not perfect. It should not be our aim to belittle them, however use this experience as a learning tool for future leaders.

Yes, there should have been an equal amount of commitment given towards campaigning and schoolwork, regardless of extracurricular activities, but all former leaders have accepted full responsibility, moved on and have promised to remain active on campus without titles.

TSU should embrace Williams and Glover's honesty, and move on, but also hold new SGA officials fully accountable for their actions, in both leadership and academics. We hope TSU students will step up to the plate and take charge of vacant positions.

But, with more than 7,000 full-time enrolled students last fall, there should not have been vacancies to begin with. There is an evident lack of passion for leadership on campus.

Glover ran unopposed and won with only 977 votes, while Williams and Crawford received 549 and 436

votes respectively. These numbers do not even make up 15 percent of the student body. We charge students not to sit back and complain if they are not willing to step up and lead.

Hopefully in future races there will be an abundance of students who answer the call to lead the university. SGA is in a critical state right now and in need of effective leaders who are willing to take the student body to new heights.

Students running for open positions and voters should realize that SGA is not in need of "popular" students, however serious individuals who want the best for the university.

We also encourage students to vote in special elections. Now is the time to elect the proper students for the job. We have been given the right to vote and should exercise that right every chance we get.

TSU is apathetic and under construction, but we will not stay down for long. Become an active part in the rebuilding process of TSU's SGA. This is our school and it's our responsibility.



GIRL TALK

When you mix plenty of substance with masses of swagger, plus a go-getter mentality, a self-starter attitude, along with a C.E.O. BO\$\$ status you are defining the Life and Times of Queen Miji.

Hello TSU world! You are currently in the captivity of Royalty. I am none other than the newest columnist to **THE METER**: Miji Pearse. For the next 16 weeks I will aim to be the point of reference for the women at TSU.

The future columns will depict real life experiences and scenarios that I've become familiar with, first hand. The column will also include advice on how to overcome these scenarios and experiences.

Some of the topics will include D-Boys, sex, education in and out of the classroom, philanthropy, being a

freshman female, reputations, being original, runners vs. made women, mentorship, character, spirituality, stds, substance, female leadership, and many other issues collegiate ladies confront.

I am a 22-year-old senior from Chicago. My major is in business administration.

During my time here, I have participated in and been a part of many initiatives. However, the bulk of my influence and power has been related to the Nashville Entertainment scene.

Armed with a bad attitude and a fierce haircut, during my sophomore and junior year I could easily be identified as the "IT" girl at TSU.

"IT" meaning the girl every other girl wanted to be and that every guy wanted to be with.

When I peaked with power about halfway through second semester of my junior year, I realized that the fast lane wasn't the best lane for me.

Since then I have become more grounded, more centered and spiritual, and I even gave birth to a beautiful baby. But now I'm back, snitches!!!

I have a renewed sense confidence and fearlessness. I've never before had the opportunity to aid the TSU

women in a direction that involves self-enhancement both inside and out.

For so long I have wanted to share with the world's young women where I've been and how I got there. I want nothing more than the ladies reading this column to use the Life and Times of Queen Miji as a point of reference.

When successfully completed *Girl Talk* will transfer real world, uncut, honest knowledge to the female population at TSU.

It is no secret that the majority of young women that attend TSU have emotional issues that lead them to make un-intelligent decisions that affect their minds, bodies, and inner selves; their lively hood at best.

The *Girl Talk* column will be almost like a big sister column, what your mother never explained to you about being young, beautiful and popular.

This column will be used to inspire, inform, and bring to life the souls of my fellow TSU women both young and old. I am living proof that women are extraordinary individuals.

Anything you want to be or accomplish is possible. Keep reading, I promise show you how.

Next week's topic: **Reputations.**

THE METER

The Measure of Student
Opinion and Sentiment

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Meter's mission is to accurately and responsibly report the "highlights and lowlights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive results while reflecting the university's multicultural student body.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Meter invites submission by all members of the Tennessee State University community.

Timelines and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

a.) All contributions must be typed and sent by e-mail.

b.) Opinions and letters should not exceed 400 words.

c.) The Meter reserves the right to reject letters, articles or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

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Embrace changes, they define us



Danielle Berkley
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

FROM WHERE I SIT

Welcome back students, it is that time again. I hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable summer and is ready to start the new school year off right.

Get your business in order, go to class, be on time, and study but have fun too. This year, like all others, will be full of changes, both good and bad, but it is an open mind that takes these changes in stride.

First, allow me to introduce myself. I am Danielle Berkley, the newly appointed editor-in-chief of **THE METER** for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

I am a senior, speech communications and theatre major, from Nashville. It is with great pleasure that I step into this position

as **THE METER** heads into its 60th year of publication.

It was April, 21, 1950 that **THE METER** printed its first paper. **THE METER** was created for students, by students.

Long before any of us were thought of founder Samuel F. Yette, had a mission for **THE METER** to be the measurement of student opinion and sentiment, reporting the highlights and lowlights of the TSU community.

Since that first paper, **THE METER** has undergone countless changes and this year is no exception. While in the past funding was never so much of an issue, now it is our main concern.

While in the past circulation of **THE METER** reached around 10,000 we now print at 20 percent of that. Also, in the past, **THE METER** was

the hub of all the latest buzz on campus, now no one is talking.

Those factors do not deter us. Change is the word that defines our generation, change is constant and change is needed.

TSU is changing, **THE METER** is changing and media as we know it is changing. It is my mission this year to accurately, responsibly and consistently report the news pertinent to you, us, the TSU community.

If there is a story you want reported, something you feel **THE METER** is missing, or just want to get involved, drop by our office located in Kean Hall Suite 304, directly above the SGA office.

As change sets in, we have already published our first ever "New Student Campus Guide" on stands already.

Be on the look out for the rebirth

of the *Community View* section, *Organization Corner*, *SGA Corner*, extended events calendar, *Green Tips*.

Readers can also expect the expansion of all of our pre-existing sections, *Sports*, *Arts & Culture*, *Business & Technology*, *Forum* and, most importantly, *News*.

Do not forget about www.tsumeter.com. Print journalism may very well be dying, but that just means now is the time that we take our Web site to another level.

We will be posting more interviews, polls, pictures, podcast and of course breaking news on www.tsumeter.com.

Convergence media, or the coming together of all media forms for a common goal, is the wave of the future, and **THE METER** as well as WTST Campus Radio and TSU Tiger News, are on the forefront.

Change is what defines us. So please toss aside what ill feelings may have been present about **THE METER** and have an open mind to see us for what we are, and where we are trying to go.*

“THE METER was created for students, by students.”

Paper renews pledge to campus, community



Marshall A. Latimore
MANAGING EDITOR

FROM WHERE I STAND

As today rings in another school year at TSU, **THE METER** has ushered in new focus, energy and commitment to serving our readers.

This year marks the beginning of what will be **THE METER**'s 60th year in existence and, with that in mind, the staff has revisited our mission and values.

In this year's Faculty & Staff Institute, held Aug. 20-24, President Melvin N. Johnson and other administrators unveiled a collective focus this year to make TSU an "engaged" community.

While one definition of the

word engage means "to involve or hold the attention of," our role as staff of **THE METER** is more closely aligned with the more intransitive definition, "to pledge oneself."

While we cannot guarantee perfection, we certainly can stand by our commitment to lead this campus by holding ourselves and our leaders accountable for engaging every shareholder in our community.

What this simply means is that readers can expect their voices to be reflected in our reporting and their issues to be examined with analysis and precision.

Additionally, our Forum pages will challenge every stakeholder to assume their role in ensuring that this campus, this community returns to its heralded position as one that thrives.

Decisions will be questioned, budgets will be audited and experts will be consulted. Why? Because we owe it to you, the students of TSU.

This year it is my goal as managing editor to ensure that the issues you pick up each Monday will not only pique your interest but also compel you to action.

There are a variety of ills that plague our campus and community. Likewise, there are equally as many bright spots that deserve proper magnification.

Together, with new adviser James Stephens, Editor in Chief Danielle Berkley and editorial team, we hope to produce content in print Mondays and online at www.tsumeter.com that rivals all media outlets in the region.

With accuracy, truth and advocacy in mind, we have made it our direct responsibility to tell our stories better than anyone else.

For nearly 60 years, our community has counted on staff of **THE METER** to serve it with our best efforts in reporting TSU's first draft of history.

From a rich athletic tradition to

a triumphant legacy of civil rights struggles, TSU has served as both a leader and cornerstone in the community it resides. Through it all, **THE METER** has been there.

In these "interesting" times, when the journalism industry is going through a transition that may determine whether newspapers will continue to exist, it is important our staff holds fast to the principles for which we stand.

THE METER is leading this journey into uncharted territories through cooperating with other campus media-WTST Campus Radio and TSU-TV-to deliver the future-a fully engaged, converged TSU News Network.

This TSU News Network will lead our community and, to rift on the university's latest marketing slant, "transform the nation, impact the world"-one report at a time.

Through it all, in one form or another, **THE METER** will be there. That much, I can promise.*

ROYAL CORNER

Greetings:

From the land of golden sunshine by the Cumberland's fertile shore, we bring you greetings as your 2009-2010 Mr. and Miss TSU.

From the new to returning students, we would like to welcome you all to Big Blue Country where lessons are learned, life-long friendships are made, and success stories are written.

As your 2009-2010 Mr. and Miss TSU, we, The Royal Court and the SGA will advocate and work hard for your student concerns.

In this academic school year we are committed to being more than just a "face," but a voice for this University as well.

We were elected by you to serve the student body and this University; and, that, we will do.

To the class of 2013; at this point you've done all the preparation work.

You've gotten the grades in high school, you scored well on a standardized test, and you have been accepted into TSU.

Maximize your experience here at TSU by stepping out of your

comfort zones and speaking to people you may not know. Some of these people could prove to be very influential throughout your life.

Take advantage of the network of new friends and professors you are about to embark on, have fun while learning as much as you can, and get the most out of your college experience.

Our charge to you is to become a positive statistic: be determined to make it through your freshman year, and not only that but to graduate with a degree.

Again, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students.

We are glad to have you here in Big Blue Country and we hope that you will always remember that you are part of a wonderful legacy where high morals and academic excellence are expected.

We hope you will have a rewarding and successful academic year.

**James Howard Bland III &
Dezirae Michelle Spain**
Mr. and Miss TSU.

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MESSAGE FROM TSU STUDENT AFFAIRS:

ABS Notebooks will be distributed for FREE to students Sept. 21 – 24 on the Main Campus from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. the FPCC Information Desk and from 6-8:00 p.m. on the Avon Williams Campus each day.

Honors student resigns to pursue career

Continued from page 3

president position. However, over the summer, he realized his calling was not SGA but a career in the entertainment industry.

"Really make sure that (SGA) is something you are passionate about," Williams said.

Former representative at large, Charity Ward, does not credit the state of SGA for her decision to vacate her position.

She explained how several musical opportunities would open up for her this year and she would rather work diligently as a member than half-heartedly otherwise.

She further explained that SGA is in need of a strong leader who does not need a "million people standing behind them."

Mike Bethea admitted to not meeting post-certification requirements and could not serve as sophomore class president after earning a 'D' in a chemistry course.

Betha also admitted said he was fully aware of the certification requirements.

"I didn't know that if you took a class again during the summer it would drop the hours and not count," said Mike Bethea, a sophomore electrical engineering major from Lexington, S.C.

Betha did have high hopes of running for the position again in special elections, but Dean Myles confirmed he could not.

"I am not disappointed in the people, but the lost of great leadership," said sophomore business information systems major, Justin Ellis from Indianapolis. "I strongly believe the people elected were right

for the job."

Spring SGA candidates used slogan endorsed t-shirts, pencils, cups and free food as staples in their promise to lead TSU to greatness.

Along with giveaways, candidates often recruited fellow students as campaign team members.

"I just don't think it is right for the candidates to waste our time campaigning and not serve in the position," said sophomore biology major Ashley Anderson from Jackson, Tenn.

The flamboyancy of campaigning proved lackluster in the end.

Now, an apparent absence fills the SGA suite. Students outwardly admit that they are disgusted at the alleged popularity contest disguised as student elections.

"If you weren't dedicated about the position why run?" said sophomore mass communications major, Miranda Clay, from Chattanooga. "I believe many people ran just to be running, (and) look where that got us"

Veterans accustomed to the "TSU popularity contest" encourage students to understand each position carefully and the magnitude it will have.

Recent alumna Adrienne Stewart finds the recent vacancies embarrassing for the university and may sour for freshman students interest in SGA.

She also said she believes

students who choose not to run for leadership positions showcase a "lack of school spirit."

"Running unopposed is worse than not running at all," said Stewart, a recent graduate from Memphis. "Leadership begins by example."

2008-2009 SGA President Patrick Walker-Reese, who ran unopposed, predicted that SGA will "bounce back" from their current deflated state if there are valuable candidates that run for the positions.

"Running unopposed can be a good and bad thing," said Walker-Reese, a history major from Nashville.

The possibility of an alternative puts the state of student affairs solely in the hands of the administration.

Until a President has been elected SGA is expected to come to a standstill.

"Hopefully we have students

running for these positions during special elections," Myles said. "If the positions are not filled we must find an alternative."

Reservations for away games, financial decisions concerning the student body and day-to-day decisions can only be decided by the SGA President.

Presumably, the vice President would assume the role. In this case, recently selected Speaker of the House, Brittney Brooks, is the interim president until further notice.

Senior history major Patrick

Calvin said Greek-lettered affiliation elitism and a failure to prioritize caused the elected SGA officials to lose their positions.

Calvin said he strongly believes that student elects ride on the coattails of popularized National Pan-Hellenic Council association.

"Greek life carries this façade that can blind your matriculation in college," said Calvin, a member of the Beta Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and Nashville native. "There is a motive to 'run the yard,' but Greeks forget to help the yard."

Williams, Glover and former SGA representatives Blake Nathan, Vernon Walker and Zachary Joyner were all recently initiated into Greek-lettered organizations during the 2008-2009 school year.

Williams is a member of the Alpha Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.; Glover and Nathan belong to the Alpha Theta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.; Walker and Joyner are members of the Beta Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

According to Calvin, forgetting to help the university proves truth that student leaders choose selfishness over selflessness.

"They are thieves that robbed TSU of great leadership," said Calvin.

A nomination convention for special elections has been scheduled for Sept. 6 in FPCC Rm. 210 at 6 p.m.

There the future of TSU leadership will be announced, proclaimed and sought after.

Once again the university will undergo a weeklong campaign where the promise of stability and accountability will be put to the test.

"The (ousted SGA officials) are thieves that robbed TSU of great leadership."

-Patrick Calvin

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Do you have an interest in representing the freshman class as a member of the House of Delegates or a Class Queen?

Perhaps a candidacy in the upcoming fall freshman and special elections, Aug. 24-Sept. 15, is for you.

In order to run, candidates must be currently enrolled in 12 college course hours (excluding developmental courses).

All interested candidates must attend the informational, where the required attire is business casual.

Open positions include the following:

- Miss Freshman
- President
- Vice President
- Class Representative
- Secretary
- Treasurer

FRESHMAN & SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Aug. 24	Applications available at FPCC Information Desk
Aug. 25	S.E.C. Forum for interested candidates <i>T.E. Poag Auditorium, 6 p.m.</i>
Sept. 2	Special Elections informational <i>FPCC Rm. 210, 6 p.m.</i>
Sept. 4	Applications due <i>FPCC Rm. 209, 5 p.m. deadline</i>
Sept. 6	Nomination convention <i>FPCC Rm. 210, 6 p.m.</i>
Sept. 6-13	Campaigning
Sept. 8	Freshmen Class Forum & Debate <i>FPCC Rm. 210, 6 p.m.</i>
Sept. 14	Avon Williams Campus Voting
Sept. 15	Main Campus Voting



Welcome, class of 2013. I look forward to meeting you all. Your role is critical to the success of fulfilling TSU's motto, "Think. Work. Serve."

The Student Election Commission, who polices student elections for the SGA, looks forward to assisting the future leaders of the freshman class.

There are tremendous opportunities in SGA and the SEC is ready to help give you the tools you need to run for open positions.

You are now a part of a bright and talented community of learners and educators that provides extraordinary pathways for intellectual, creative and cultural enrichment.

As you get acclimated to our campus environment, I would like to encourage you to begin thinking of ways you can get connected to student life on campus.

I look forward to the qualities you will bring to the campus and the substantive contributions I know you will add.

Once again: welcome, and hold strong to our motto as you go forth to think, work and serve.

Robert Hortorn
SEC CHAIR

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BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Monday, August 31, 2009

Volume 60, Issue 2



**Shannon
Cohen**

BUSINESS &
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

MONEY BYTES GET FOCUSED

Now that summer is over, it is time to get focused for some students and refocused for others. For some reason, students tend to focus more on their extracurricular activities and parties more than what really matters most—their grades.

This is becoming a big issue, as even some of our most influential student leaders, including the recently ousted SGA president and vice president, fall prey to the same problem. Their situation, however, should not be an excuse to fail; rather, it should be a reason to excel.

Students must remember that academics is their most important responsibility. If maintaining an acceptable grade point average is too difficult alone, then pledging, partying and participating in other activities should not even be an idea.

The time most students spend participating in extracurricular activities, could be better spent with study groups.

According to TSU's 2007-2009 student handbook, students must earn a 1.6 grade point average for less than thirty hours attempted, 1.8 for 30 - 59 hours and 2.0 for 59 or more hours. There's no reason why a student shouldn't be able to maintain a satisfactory GPA.

Graduate schools, internships and jobs are more focused on one's GPA than how many extracurricular activities a student is involved in.

Doing homework before one heads to that late organization meeting or party might help. Also, setting up a study session with classmates at least once a week may also be beneficial.

Time management is possibly one

See "Plan" on page 10

Officials enhance Financial Aid

By Shannon Cohen
BUSINESS &
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Shorter lines, faster processing and fewer purged students are all advantages of an improved financial aid program at TSU, Enrollment Management officials say.

Michael A. Freeman, vice president for Student Affairs, said he completely revamped the financial aid process—taking advantage of a switch in loan programs and better communication efforts.

Freeman took over the financial aid department as a part of a reassignment of the Enrollment Management division to his jurisdiction.

This followed the dismissal of several top administrators after a security breach in the Financial Aid department affecting more than 9,000 current and former students, as well as a heavily scrutinized registration process in fall 2008.

Unlike last year, Freeman instructed Financial Aid officials to not only send e-mails through myTSU accounts, but also mail letters, make phone calls and even send e-mails to alternate addresses.

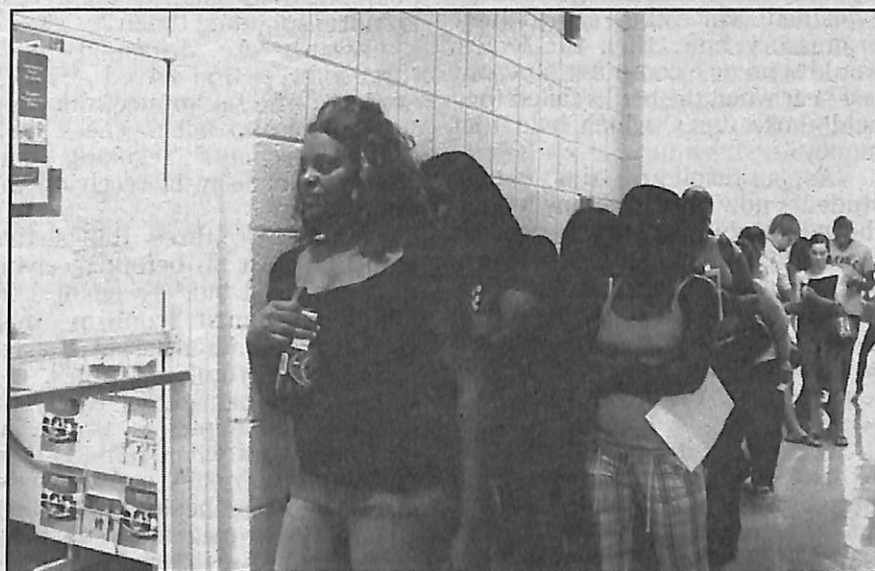


PHOTO BY FAITH FOX/THE METER

A much shorter line of students wait along the hallway adjacent to the Financial Aid office two weeks before classes began today than last year.

Freeman attributed last year's financial aid problems to an inexperienced staff using new computer systems.

In contrast, all staffers have been able to nearly master the new systems, allowing for quicker processing, he said. Also, two new staffers have been added to the

Financial Aid department.

Freeman said the department also previously faced issues with a declining economy because lenders were reluctant to distribute funds. Consequently, loans students expected to be posted to their individual accounts were not.

See "Students" on page 10

COB granted six-year accreditation

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, AACSB, has awarded accreditation to TSU's College of Business for an additional six years.

TSU is the first Tennessee Board of Regents university to receive accreditation from the association for the undergraduate and graduate programs.

The university is also the first public historically black college and university to receive such accreditation.

In order to receive such

accreditation, colleges must meet required guidelines and prove to the association that their program is effective in providing an excellent education.

The college was recognized at the AACSB's annual meeting held in Orlando.

TSU receives \$50,000 grant for new research project

TBR awarded TSU with a \$50,000 grant to fund a new Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Project, (URCA).

The program was developed in efforts to increase the amount of undergraduate researchers and interest in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

This project will be very beneficial for African American in the next few years, as they are underrepresented in the STEM fields.

Only 42 students and 12 faculty members will be supported by the project as they perform STEM research at the university.

Students now borrow directly from government

Continued from page 9

Starting this fall, the university made the switch to the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program from the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program.

"In (the FFEL program) you had multiple lenders and students would choose their lender," Freeman explained. "Once they signed their promissory note, then the lender would send us a computer tape, but last year when the banks failed they held those tapes, which held that money."

As a result of the switch, students now only have one lender: the federal government. The process now eliminates much of the hassle with the dispersion of funds.

Last year, students who had completed all required documentation and academic requirements on time, were still being purged.

"I turned in everything way before deadline and was still purged twice," said Mya Douglas, a sophomore Spanish major from Baton Rouge, La. "I haven't been purged yet, but my fingers are still

crossed though."

The only thing that should delay processing this year is the student, Freeman said. Even after all notices and warnings, many students still fail to take care of their business on time.

Freeman said the biggest mistake students make that postpone their financial aid process is "not responding timely."

Awards are dispersed on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Students who fail to meet the April 1 deadline and fail to check their myTSU accounts regularly may also have a delay in receiving the awards.

"There are three things that students must do before receiving their financial aid," Freeman said. "(Students) must confirm their classes, accept financial aid and sign their master promissory notes."

Students can expect to receive refunds on Sept. 4, unlike in previous years when refunds were distributed as many as two weeks after school begins. However, students who paid fees, submitted documents or registered for classes late may receive refunds later.

Freeman said refunds could have possibly been disbursed prior to Aug. 31, if students only register once, without changing classes. In many cases, students change classes often, which affects their refunds.

Freshmen and transfer students also benefited from the revamped program. This year's new student orientation was themed "Destination TSU," which was carried out by the issuance of boarding passes, marked A, B, C, D and Z, based upon what requirements needed to be fulfilled in the registration process.

Freeman said the boarding passes were issued to provide a smoother landing for incoming freshmen. The passes listed a student's name, college and major, and designated students to respective "terminals" on campus.

Passes marked 'A' were designated for students who were "ready for take off," meaning the student had no holds and had completed the registration process.

"I had boarding pass B, and all I had to do was sign my master promissory note," said Ieshia Thomas, a freshman mass communications major from

Atlanta.

In contrast, passes marked 'Z' were distributed to students who still needed to submit documentation to Admissions, Financial Aid and had holds on their accounts. These students had to complete the entire registration process.

The passes listed exactly what documents needed to be submitted. Each pass designated students the location they were able to obtain these documents or receive additional assistance.

Freeman said that with these new changes, the financial aid process is expected to be quicker.

Students also said that things seem to be far from the financial aid crisis experienced last year.

"This year, (the financial aid process) actually went well," said Amanda Macon, a junior speech communications and theater major from Detroit. "Last year, I got purged a lot of times, because they were supposedly switching over to Banner services."

"I made sure I did everything super early, everything went through and I didn't have to fight to get it right," Macon continued.

Prioritize, plan, manage time more wisely

Continued from page 9

of students' biggest problems. If only students could better manage their time between going to classes, doing the work, extracurricular activities and partying, then they may be in better shape. The primary problem students have with time management is not finding the time for all these things, but remembering which things are more important.

Here is the sequence: class, homework, extracurricular activities, then partying. Once that is memorized, time management will be a breeze.

So, for incoming freshmen and returning students, do not put academics on the back burner for less important activities, because as students, academics are a priority.

It is time to leave the summer fun behind and focus.

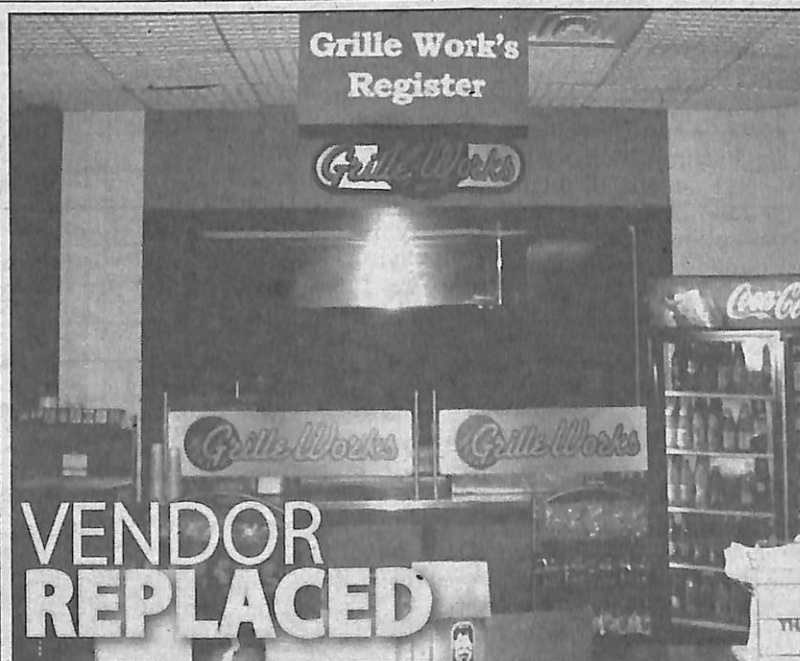


PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER PATTERSON/THE METER

Returning TSU students may have noticed the change from Burger King to Grille Works in the Sub food court. Find out why at tsumeter.com.

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THE METER ARTS CULTURE

Monday, August 31, 2009

Volume 60 Issue 2



Nakeva Williams
ARTS &
CULTURE EDITOR

KEEPING IT REAL

LET'S SHOW SOME SELF-RESPECT

Last week was dedicated to new students becoming more acquainted with TSU while bonding with their 2013 peers. However, the lack of self-respect and the obvious yearning for attention by some of the freshmen girls was startling.

When I attended "Late Night in the Rec," the freshmen party held on campus last Saturday night, I was taken aback by the attire worn by some young ladies.

One freshmen lady decided to wear a strapless bra and an open jacket. While an upperclassman did ask the young lady to cover up, I could not believe she thought this was acceptable attire.

I suspect the depiction of college on television plays a major role on why incoming freshmen girls think revealing their bodies is the only way to gain attention here.

I do understand that as young women we are fighting a constant battle with self-image and being accepted. Still, this is no longer high school, and the way we present ourselves truly has an effect on the way we are perceived by both genders.

Do not expect to be taken seriously by peers and professors if the effort to dress up is not taken into consideration. I am not saying to cover up from head to toe, but a little class goes a long way.

Ladies, please leave something for the imagination. No respectable young man will even think about furthering a relationship past the bedroom if that is all that is being offered.

Trust me. You do not want to be remembered as the girl from the party who had too much to drink, or the

See "Upperclassmen" on page 12

Show honors Merritt legacy

By Nakeva Williams
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Dwight Pope hopes the sophistication of TSU will be brought to life in this year's John A. Merritt Classic fashion show

Spearheaded by Pope, who is also head cheerleading coach, the show's theme, "*Imperial: The Color of Couture*," was chosen because of the university's fashion standards.

"TSU is known to be a very regal and majestic body of fashion forward people," said Pope.

The show will be catwalk-style on a 64-foot runway without many theatrics.

Pope stated, "I did not want to use a lot of theatrics because it takes away from the actual fashion and the designer's hard work."

Pope's own private agency, Diavontti Models, will be featured,

as well as various student leaders and the Allure Modeling Troupe.

Some designers include TSU graduate Tina Stinson and current student Dale Chaxer.

The show's warbrobe includes pieces from 615 Clothing, Agasi and Lavelle Michaelson

The show will include a tribute celebrating renowned TSU football coach, John A. Merritt, who led the Tigers from 1963 - 1983.

Merritt was also ultimately responsible for winning four national championships among historically black colleges.

This year's fashion show marks the 11th year of production but only nine of those years have been in conjunction with the John A. Merritt Classic celebration.

The show will be hosted by TSU alumnus Adrian "AG" Granderson and will feature national recording

artist, Joe Johnson, also a TSU graduate.

"I am curious to see how the audience will receive this year's show," Pope said.

Pope is not the only one eager to see how the show will turn out.

"I am always excited about the (JMC) celebration," said Kevina Bland, a senior engineering major Savannah, Ga. "I cannot wait to see what is in store for this year, because I love new edgy trendy fashion."

The event will be held Sept. 8 in the Kean Hall Gymnasium, starting at 8 p.m. •

Log on to view photos following the show on www.tsumeter.com.

Soul crooner makes major comeback

After an eight-year hiatus, R&B/soul artist Maxwell made a comeback with his fifth album, *BLACKsummers' night*.

Fans may remember the singer's last album *Embrya*, released in 2001, featuring the hit songs *Lifetime* and *This Woman's Work*.

The album's lead single, *Pretty Wings* still rests comfortably atop *Billboard's* R&B/Hip Hop charts and seems to be the start of a booming comeback for the artist.

Released in mid-July, *BLACKsummers'Night* is the first part of a trilogy set. Other parts of the trilogy (tentatively titled *BlackSUMMERS'Night* and *BlackSUMMERS'NIGHT*) have been scheduled for release in 2010 and



2011, respectively.

Debuting at number one the week of its release, *BLACKsummers'night* is still on the top ten on the *Billboard* 200.

His promotional tour kicked off in June with Common and Chrisette Michele as co-headliners and made a stop here in Nashville in early July.

Houston returns with 'I Look to You'

After seven years of rumors and awaiting fans, one of the most talented artists in the music industry is back and ready to deliver. Whitney Houston's highly anticipated comeback album, *I Look to You*, hits stores today.

The emotional title track was her first single off the album, and it can be described as an inspirational ballad.

Houston's album is expected to be one of the biggest arrivals of 2009. The album includes songs written by R. Kelly and is produced by Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz.

Fans can anticipate a slew of promotional performances and a high profile interview with Oprah Winfrey this afternoon. •

Upperclassmen females, let's uplift freshman

Continued from page 11

girl who is seen coming out of Watson at crazy hours.

To the older women of this campus, it is our duty to embrace the incoming freshmen and do our best to steer them in the right direction.

I understand the "every [wo]man for herself" motto is really big, but we will not grow as respectable people if we're stuck as crabs in a barrel.

As an upperclassman, I understand the apprehension about things getting out of control when we try to help out, but the only way some of these freshmen ladies will learn is if we teach them.

If they do not want to take the advice, walk away, but there are those who long for that guidance.

To the freshmen women, remember that you represent yourselves, your parents and this university each and every day.

If someone asked you about the goals you want to achieve in life, would your answer match the way you carry yourself?•

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

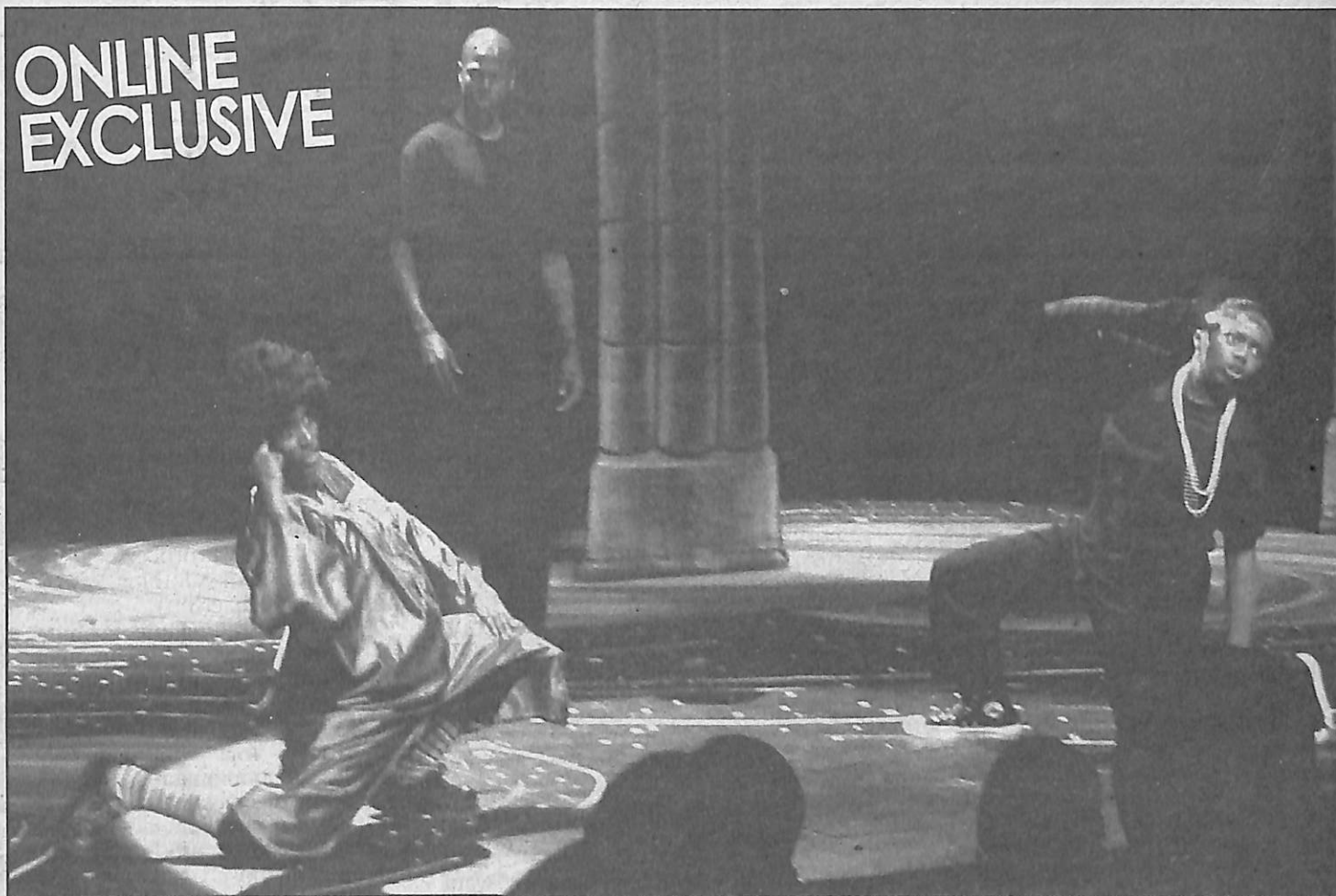


PHOTO BY MARSHALL A. LATIMORE/THE METER

TSU student Jarvis Byers (center) and alumnae Celeste Cooper and LaTorious Givens star in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, a play produced by Nashville's Summer Stock Theatre program. Read a review by Managing Editor Marshall A. Latimore on www.tsumeter.com.

'Wicked' comes to Nashville

By Nakeva Williams
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

The musical *Wicked*, which debuted on Broadway on Oct. 30, 2003, is coming to Nashville.

It was produced by Universal Pictures, and is the winner of 20 major awards which include a Grammy and three Tony Awards.

Wicked is a spin-off of L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz* and tells an untold tale of the witches of Oz, long before Dorothy's arrival.

Wicked stars Glinda, the Good Witch, and Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, and they are at two different ends of the spectrum. One is seen as green and mean, while the other is sweet and innocent.

Their relationship is tried through opposing viewpoints, same love-interests and one witch's public embarrassment.

The creative team of *Wicked* includes music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, Joe Mantello as the director, Wayne Cilento for musical staging and Eugene Lee as the scenic designer.

For the Nashville show, the star cast includes Marcie Dodd as Elphaba, Helene Yorke as Glinda, Marilyn Caskey as Madame Morrible and Tom McGowan as The Wizard.

The show will be running in the Andrew Jackson Hall at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center from Sept. 2-20.

Ticket prices ranging from \$50 to \$135.•



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THE METER SPORTS

Monday, August 31, 2009

Volume 60 Issue 2



**Kaila
Thompson**
CONTRIBUTING
COLUMNIST

HEALTH MATTERS MAKE HEALTH A TOP PRIORITY

College, as exciting as it is may be for first year students, can be harmful to one's health. Many freshmen have priorities in their first year, but often put their health on the back burner.

Adjusting to college, upgrading your social life, and taking part in many activities on campus often take up many freshmen to-do-lists on campus.

What many students do not know is how health plays a major role in their college experience.

There are thousands of students on campus, and each individual person has a health status.

It is each student's responsibility to be on top of his or her health. Students should get a full check-up at least once a year be tested for STDs at least once a year, if very active twice a year.

Also, women should get a pap smear at minimum once a year and men should get cholesterol checks every five years.

TSU has many resources on and off campus that can help students manage health while in college.

Many students do not take advantage of what our university offers in regards to maintaining a good bill of health.

First year students are faced with potential weight gain, inconsistent eating patterns, restlessness, stress, STDs, pregnancy and much more.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, college students should get at least two and a half hours of physical activity a week, eat a balanced diet, get vaccinated, and get regular check-ups.

With so many different ways to keep good health while on campus, here are some Health Resources to utilize as a first year student:

Queen Washington Health Center provides first-aid, gynecology

See "Take" on page 15

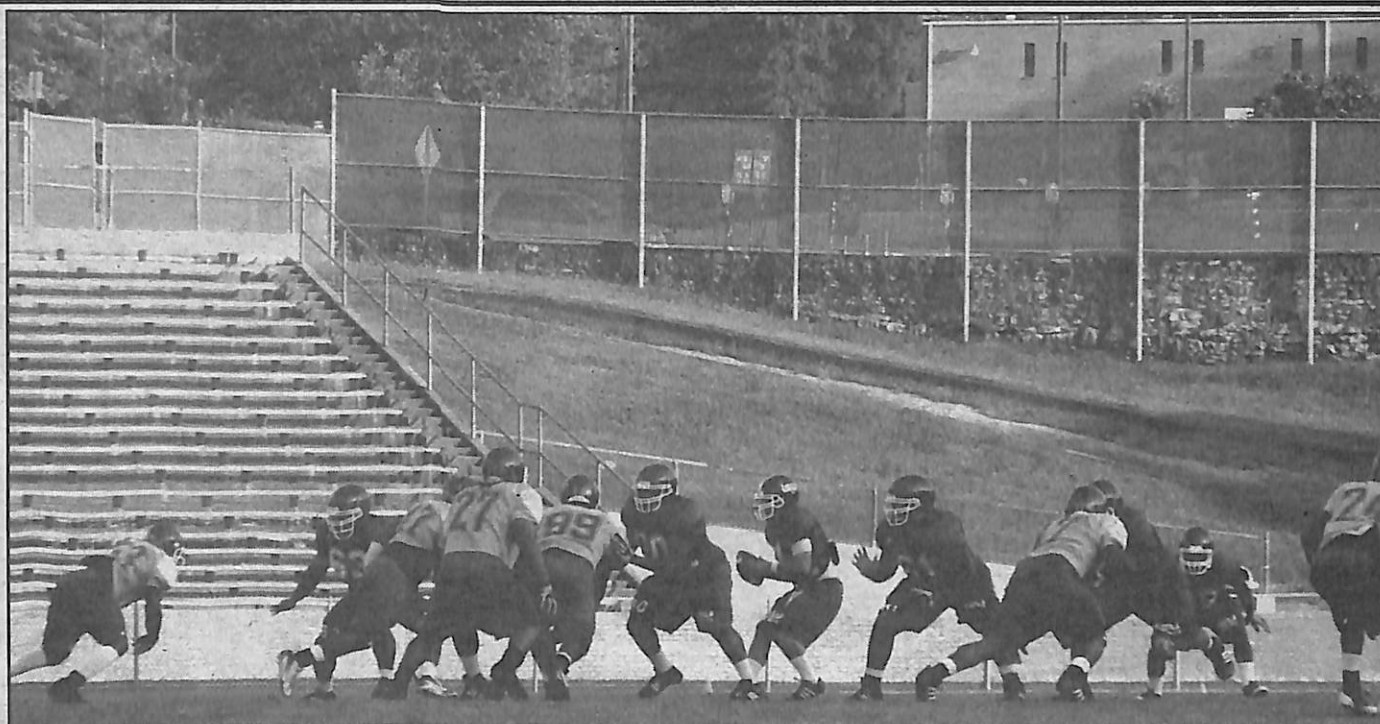


PHOTO BY FAITH FOXX/THE METER

The Tigers prepare to take on the Alabama A&M University Bulldogs Saturday, Sept. 5 at LP Field.

Tigers prep for season opener

By Jessica Mosley &
Patrick Comer
SPORTS EDITOR &
SENIOR STAFF REPORTER

This Saturday, the TSU Tigers take on the Alabama A & M University Bulldogs in the team's season opener at LP Field for the 11th annual John Merritt Classic.

Head coach James Webster, who begins his fifth season at the helm, said he is working to improve on the Tigers' 8-4 season last year, which has been the team's best record in seven years.

"There are more players injured than I would like at the moment," Webster said. "But I feel good about the team."

Webster said a lot of time during the offseason was dedicated to finding replacements for several of their starters from last season.

Javarris Williams, who was

drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in April, led the Tigers' rushing attack last season, finished as the second leading rusher in Tiger history.

Antonio Heffner, who led the Tigers' passing attack for most of the season until he was injured, graduated, along with leading receivers Brandon Belvin and Chris Johnson.

"We lost pretty much the whole offense from last season," Webster said. "It's going to take a game or two to get the offense to gel together."

"It's one thing to practice but you just don't know until you play," he continued.

The Tigers' coaches will be looking closely at the players vying for the starting quarterback position. Three players have been training for the job.

However, injuries that Calvin McNarl, a redshirt sophomore from Paris, Tenn. and Dominic Grooms,

a junior from Tampa, Fla., have suffered over the last few weeks have slowed their conquest for the quarterback position.

Webster said he was leaning towards naming Jeremy Perry as the starting quarterback for the team's opener on Sept 5. Webster, however, has reserved judgment on the matter until Wednesday when he will name a starter.

The lack of offensive starters seem to be the case for most of the team, with the exception of running back. Webster believes that the senior from Nashville, Preston Brown, will be able to fill the void left by Williams.

"He is going to be able to walk in and pick up right where (Javarris) Williams left off," he said.

On the recruiting front, Webster has brought in numerous freshman players to help them gear up for another winning

See "Thompson" on page 15

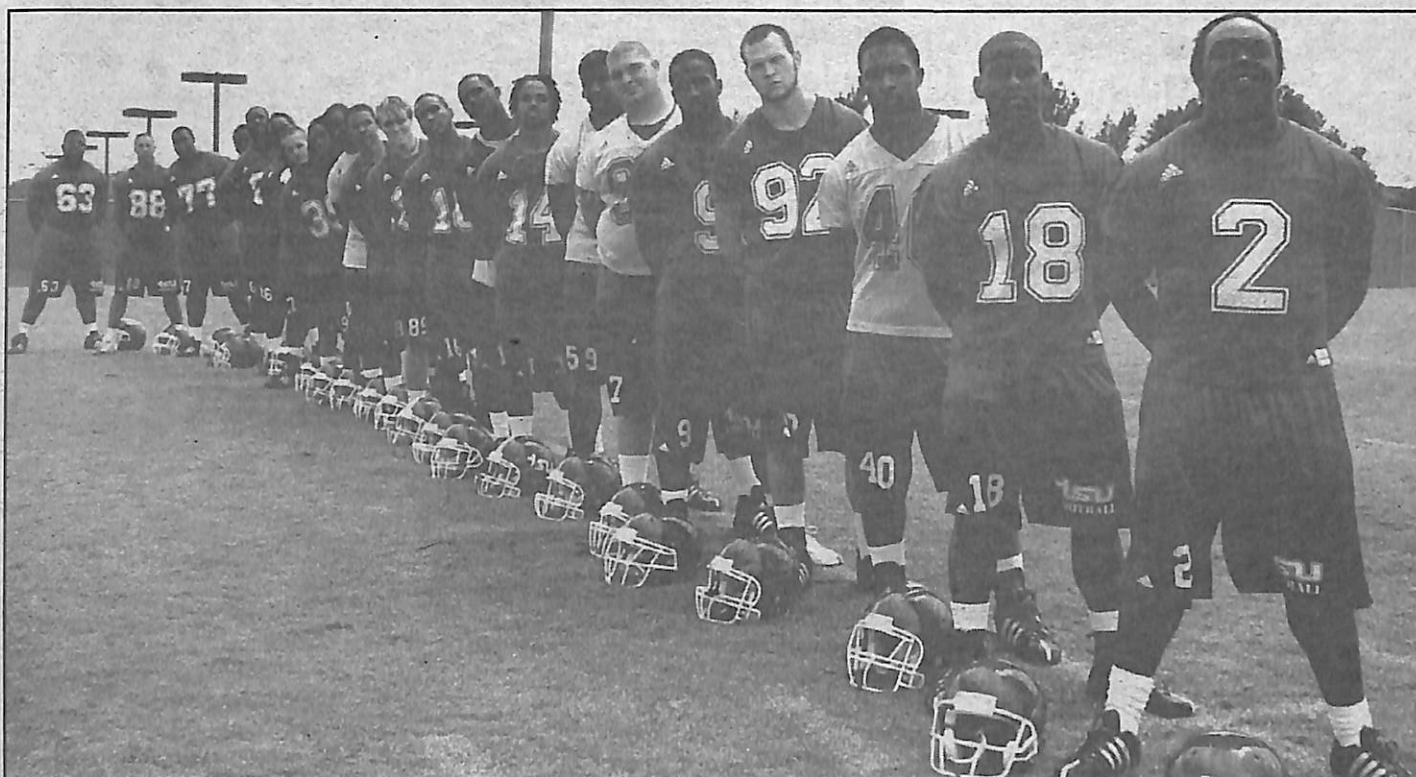


PHOTO BY FAITH FOXX/THE METER

Tiger freshman and transfers prepare to play in their first game in a TSU jersey on Saturday at the John Merritt Classic.

Thompson: "The energy is high"

Continued from page 14

season.

"Things are going well at the end of camp," said Reno Thompson, director of football operations and former TSU student. "The spirit and the energy is high."

Saturday's game is to be followed by the Southern Heritage Classic Sept. 12 in Memphis, against the Jackson State University Tigers.

Then, the Tigers head down to Baton Rouge, La. where they will face the Southern University Jaguars on Sept. 19.

Next the Tigers head to Atlanta for the Sept. 26 Atlanta Football Classic against the Florida A&M University Rattlers.

The Tigers next home game is Oct. 4, against Ohio Valley Conference foe Southeast Missouri State University.

As the team prepares to hit the gridiron for the JMC, Webster said the Tigers are better than what other OVC coaches and sports information directors have predicted.

"We are better than fourth and plan to prove everyone wrong," he said.

See more photos and video of the Tigers' practice during their preseason football camp at www.tsumeter.com

FRESHMAN & TRANSFER TIGERS

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN:

Kadeem Edwards, Sanford, Fla.
James Lewter, Washington, D.C.,
Jonathan Martin, Columbus, Ga.
Demardre Dean, Memphis
Brent Davis, Memphis
Tyson Kemp, Orlando, Fla.
Deonte Newsome, Nashville
George Pulley, Nashville

WIDE RECEIVERS:

Jeremy Pryor, Memphis
Devin Wilson, Nashville
Calvin Roberts, Nashville
Marquez Wilkens, Decatur, Ill.
Teandre Fisher, Nashville

RUNNING BACKS:

Trabis Ward, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Terrence Lewis,

East Dublin, Ga.

QUARTERBACK:

Tony Gurley, Gurley, Ala.

LINEBACKERS:

Jarron Gutherie, Nashville
John Jones, Sarastoa, Fla.
Ronald Bright, Sarasota, Fla.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN:

Michael Murphy, Lewisburg, Tenn.
Kyrie Harris, McMinnville, Tenn.

DEFENSIVE END:

Blake Smith, Green Belt, Md.

DEFENSIVE BACKS:

Justin Bather, LaVergne, Tenn.
David Van Dyke, Miami

KICKER:

Robert Vipond, Chattanooga

Take advantage of health services

Continued from page 14

and referrals to hospitals. The STD Free program also works in conjunction with the Health Center. Get tested.

The center also provides student injury and sickness insurance plans for uninsured students.

Enrollment and information can be obtained from the Health Center or the Student Affairs suite, FPCC room 308. 615-963-5291

• **The University Counseling Center** provides counseling on an individual or group basis.

Services are provided for disabled students, added outreach for student athletes, consultation services for student organizations.

They also have outreach services in date rape, substance abuse, grief and stress management. Remember, a healthy mind is mandatory for a comfortable life! 615-963-5611

• **TSU's Recreation & Wellness Center** provides access to the university pool for recreational swimming during posted hours and a workout room for students, faculty, staff and administrators.

There is also a studio for aerobics and dance classes including Abs, yoga and Pilates.

Stop by and see what classes are taking place this semester. TSU ID is required for entry. 615-963-2261

• **TSU Dental Hygiene Clinic** provides comprehensive dental hygiene care, located on the main campus in Clement Hall.

Services include tobacco cessation, fluoride therapy, bleaching, teeth cleaning and many other services. Prices vary and services are by appointment. 615-963-5791

• **Lentz Public Health Department**, located near campus at 311 23rd Avenue North, offers many programs at little cost including Immunizations, Physicals, birth control programs and a STD clinic.

They also have a "Bridges to Care" program for uninsured adults based on your income. 615-340-5616.

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